



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.usda.gov/nass/



Released on September 30, 2005

Contact: Chris Messer (360)902-1940

nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

United States and Washington's All Wheat Production 3 Percent Below 2004

All wheat production in the United States in 2005 totaled 2.10 million bushels, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 3 percent below 2004. Grain area is 50.0 million acres, down fractionally from last year. The U. S. yield is 42.0 bushels per acres, 1.0 bushels below the August forecast and down 1.2 bushels from a year ago. **Washington's** wheat production is ranked fourth in the Nation behind Kansas, North Dakota and Montana. This year's crop totaled 139.3 million bushels, also 3 percent less than the 2004 crop and slightly less than the 2003 crop.

The 2005 **U.S. Winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.49 million bushels. This is slightly below the 2004 crop but 13 percent below the 2003 crop. The U.S. yield averaged 44.4 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushels per acre above 2004 but 2.3 bushels per acre below the yield two years ago. Planted acres is 40.3 million acres and harvested is 33.7 million acres. Hard red winter comprised 61.2 percent of the total, soft red 20.6 percent, hard white 1.8 percent and the remainder, soft white, was 16.4 percent. **Washington** wheat growers produced 120.6 million bushels from 1.80 million harvested acres. The average 67.0 bushels per acre was unchanged from 2004 and 2 bushels per acre above 2003. Hard red comprised 8 percent of the total but the majority, 92 percent, was white.

In Washington, rain was welcome in late August 2004 as producers began packing the seed beds. Growers were determining if they should seed, wait for weeds (rodweed) - then seed - or something in between.

By early September 2004, 21 percent of the winter wheat was seeded, compared with 31 percent in 2003 and the 5 year average of 23 percent. Some early fields were emerging. By mid-September virtually the entire crop was seeded, with some areas requiring re-seeding. September closed with growers continuing to seed between showers, disking, chiseling, and fertilizing. Fieldwork continued throughout October 2004 with the pace comparable with 2003 and the 5-year average. By month's end virtually the entire State was seeded.

Early spring 2005 found winter wheat fields in good to excellent condition. Virtually no winterkill was reported. Soil moisture was good. Scattered showers throughout May 2005 increased the prospects of a good crop on dryland fields almost State-wide. Harvest was suppose to begin earlier than usual this year because of many hot, dry days but the night-time temperatures delayed the combines getting into the fields and cutting began about the same time as in the past.

The total wheat production for the **Pacific Northwest** for 2005 was set at 293.5 million bushels, 3 percent below last year. Winter wheat production reached 234.6 million bushels, 3 percent above 2004, and spring wheat production was a reported 57.1 million bushels compared with 73.4 million last year.

Barley production in **Washington** totaled 12.5 million bushels, a decrease of 18 percent from last year. Both harvested acres and yield declined from last year. Harvested acres were 205,000 acres, compared with 245,000 harvest in 2004 and yields averaged 61.0 bushels per acre, 9 bushels below 2004. The **Pacific Northwest** barley production totaled 66.7 million bushels, down 18 percent from the 2004 crop. A hot, dry spring contributed to the reduced yields. The **National** production for 2004 barley was 212.2 million bushels, down 24 percent from 2004.

Oat production in **Washington** totaled 600,000 bushels, down 16,000 bushels from 2004. Producers in the State averaged 75.0 bushels per acre, down 13 bushels from a year ago. **Nationally**, oat production was estimated at 115.0 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year's 115.7 million bushels.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/whtprd09.pdf>

#

Find agricultural statistics for Washington State at www.nass.usda.gov/wa/